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Dear Friend:

I thought you would be interested in knowing that the U.S. Senate recently passed my bill to implement the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). This is an important victory for arms control and nonproliferation efforts. Though such legislation was first contemplated in 1973, the Senate's unanimous consent on November 21 marked the first time that either body of Congress had endorsed the idea.

The bill, the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act (S. 993), now goes to the House of Representatives, where it will be considered by the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law.

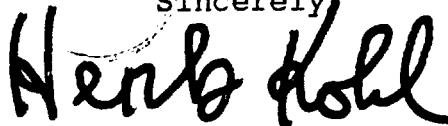
More than 100 nations have signed the BWC, agreeing never to develop or possess germ warfare devices. Signatory governments also pledge to "take any necessary measures" to outlaw these abominations at home. Though many observers (and several nations) interpret this latter commitment to require enactment of domestic laws against bio-weapons, the United States has not yet taken this crucial step.

My bill would discharge America's obligation by making it a crime to possess a bio-weapon or to help a foreign nation acquire one. In addition, the Attorney General would be authorized to seek the civil forfeiture of these weapons--before they injure people or harm the environment. The measure would not affect peaceful scientific research.

By enacting S. 993, we will protect the public against the threat of bio-terrorism and signal the world that the United States remains firmly opposed to these heinous weapons.

I am enclosing a copy of the Senate Judiciary Committee's report on the bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Keenen Peck of my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl, U.S.S.